—Improved oil expeller with 2 per cent additional oil recovery designed. Additional benefits, better quality cake and oil and longer life of the plant.

—A process and equipment for rice bran stabilisation design and developed, for extraction of edible grade rice bran oil.

—A sunflower decorticator designed and developed, yeilding additional 3 per cent oil and better quality of cake and oil.

Technology Mission on Telecommunication:

—165500 electromechanical exchange lines replaced as on 1-1-1990.

—566000 old telephone instruments replaced as on 1-1-1990.

—14200 Kms underground cable replaced as on 1-1-1990.

—Telephone fault rate per 100 stations per month brought down from 35 as on April 1986 to 17 as on January, 1990.

—Telex fault rate per 100 stations per month brought down from 62 as on April 1986 to 22 as on January, 1990.

—Percentage delivery of telegrams within 12 day-light hours between 500 large stations increased from 29 as on April, 1986 to 81 as on January, 1990.

—1000 rural exchanges of various capacities commissoned as on January, 1990.

—STD to district headquarters increased from 192 as on April 1986 to 329 as on January, 1990.

—3510 open long distance pay phones installed to improve rural communication as on January, 1990.

—12650 public telephones were installed as on January, 1990 to increase accessibility in urban areas.

(c) These programmes under the technology missions are being continued by various Ministries and Departments.

Review of the Electronic Policy

*3. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review its electronic policy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to gibe a fillip to the electronic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Government policy in the field of electronics has been based on the objectives of promoting a strong self-reliant indigenous base in the electronic sector, encouraging technology development and upgradation, and building up appropriate infrastructure and qualified manpower Starting with the Bhabha Committee Report in February, 1966 which underlined the importance of electronic industry and the need to make India self-reliant in the field, the objectives and the plan to realise them were concretised in the starting of the Department of Electronic and Electronics Commission in 1970-71. In 1975, a perspective report on electronics in India was prepared. In this background the Electronic ndustry evolved and grew, along with development which strengthened the R&D base in the country. There were important milestones in this process of evolution;

(1) 1981 Policy on the electronic components.

(2) The industrial and licensing policy for the colour TV sets of 1983.

(3) Relaxation announced in March, 1984 in respect of policy for

manufacture of some of the telecommunication equipment which were earlier reserved for public sector.

(4) Press Note on new computer policy issued in November, 1984.

(5) Integrated policy measures announced in March, 1985.

(6) Software development policy of December, 1986.

Simultaneously, fiscal as well as import/export poilcies had evolved resulting in the healthy growth of electronics industry on the expected lines.

These policy initiatves covering a wide area have been followed up. Various elements of the policy relating to the objectives mentioned earlier are continuously being evolved and evaluated, and modifications or changes are incorporated as and when necessary. Thus, some thrust areas have been identified such as Microelectronics, software development, materials and component production, exports of both software and hardware, and manpower development, in which specific initiatives continue to be taken.

As part of the efforts of the Government in its proclaimed policy to improve the condition of the people especially in the rural areas, specific electronics applications areas would receive more attention. These include: electronics application in agriculture to be promoted in different ways including efforts of the five Electronics Research and Development Centres; electronics for food processing and water managemnet; employment generation in rural areas through schemes for assembly of electronic equipments by co-operatives and other institutions; electronic applications for the aid of the handicapped and manpower programmes for building up technician training skills in rural areas through ITIs etc.

(c) As a result of the initiatives so far taken, the electronics industry has achieved a cumulative annual average growth of 35 per cent in the last 5 years. Applications of electronics in key sectors, particularly process control and industrial equipment have increased. Computers have started being used in all relevant and appropriate sectors, including business, education and offices, for improving productivity while ensuring that employment needs are fully taken note of. R&D electronics application base, as well as infrastructure for standardisation, testing and quality control has been built up. The Government will endeavour to keep up the dynamism already displayed by taking appropriate steps to identify the shifts in demand and technology, etc. and generate efforts in the directions which will sustain the production rate, productivity, increased employment, self-reliance etc. in this sector.

Review of the New Education Policy

*4. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had ordered total review of the New Education Policy and its implementation;

(b) if so, whether the review has since been completed; and

(c) what are the decision with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON). (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government have decided to undertake a review of the New Education Policy. The modalities for this are beng worked out.